

Check List for Surgical Nurses in the Context of Laparoscopic Surgery

1. Checking the Operating Theatre:

- Functional testing of the operating lamps
- **Functional testing of all lamps in the operating theatre**
- Functional testing of the air conditioning system
- Functional testing of the operating table
- **Is adequate medical furniture available?**
- **Are waste bins available in sufficient numbers?**
- **Generally speaking: Is the operating theatre clean, adequately equipped and ready to be used?**

2. Checking the Equipment:

- Functional testing of the monopolar generator
- Functional testing of the bipolar generator
- Functional testing of the Ultracision unit
- Functional testing of the Ligasure unit
- Functional testing of the Gyrus unit
- Functional testing of the suction unit
- Functional testing of any other equipment to be used during the operation
- Check any other equipment you need for the surgery (sterile?)
- **Are the trays and instruments to be used during surgery at hand and sterile?**

3. Checking the Video Tower:

- Connect the video tower to the power supply
- Switch on the monitor
- Switch on the camera and connect the camera head; check if the camera transmits images to the monitor
- Switch on the gas insufflation unit
- Open the gas-bottle valve; read off the gas reserve value displayed at the insufflation unit to see whether there is enough carbon dioxide left in the gas bottle
- Switch on the cold-light unit
- **Functional testing of the irrigation pump, if such a pump is to be used during surgery**
- **Use prewarmed irrigation fluid**

4. Checking the Instruments:

- Sterility and cleanliness
- Optical system:
 - What kind of lense are required – 10mm, 5mm, 0°, 30° etc.?
 - Check the optical system to see whether it is clear or cloudy
- Cold light cable:
 - Is the cable in good order or does it show points of breakage?

- Can the cold light cable be connected to the optical system and the cold-light unit?
- **Is the cold light cable long enough?**
- Flexible gas tube:
 - Is the flexible gas tube long enough?
 - Is it dry inside?
 - Does it have fittings to connect the trocar and the gas insufflation unit?
- Instruments:
 - Overhold forceps, scissors, alligator forceps, swab forceps, suction probes, trocars and any other instruments which may be required for the operation to be performed must be at hand and fully functional
 - Is the insulation of the instruments in good order?
 - Ensure that electrical cables are in good order and do not show any points of breakage
 - Are appropriate clip applicators at hand and fully functional?
 - Check trocars, seals and valves
- count any sponge you need for the surgery. It is a precautionary measure

5. Checking the Patient:

- Is it the right patient?
- Are all documents complete?
- Does the patient have any pre-existing illnesses/conditions that must be taken into account?
- Has the patient signed a form of consent to surgery?
- Position the patient according to the surgery to be performed
- Shave the area of operation

6. Positioning Patients for Surgery:

- Depending on the surgery to be performed:
 - supine position
 - lateral position
 - lithotomy position
 - perineal position
 - prone position
 - semi - supine position
- Bring the patient in a safe position and strap them to the operating table
- For the patient's safety, you may put up side rails
- Place the patient on a soft surface, e.g. on gel mattresses, to prevent the incidence of pressure damage
- Place absorbent cloths – patient must always lie on a dry surface because otherwise there will be a danger of burns if you are working with monopolar cauter
- Apply the return electrode
- During surgery, the patient must not have any contact to the metal operating table because otherwise there would be a danger of burns
- **The patient must remain strapped with a restraining belt all the time during surgery**
- **General preventive measures to be applied when positioning patients:**
 - Prevention of burns
 - Prevention of falls

- Prevention of hypothermia
- Prevention of contractures
- Prevention of decubitus
- Prevention of thrombosis

7. During Surgery:

- Carefully watch what is going on during surgery (during the laparoscopic surgery you have a better view like in open surgery)
- Hand the instruments to the surgeon and take them back in a safe manner without causing any accidents
- During the surgery take all the cable under control and take them safe
- Immediately replace damaged instruments
- Clean instruments whenever possible and necessary during surgery
- Keep the operating table tidy
- Use materials economically

8. After Surgery:

- Clean the patient and apply a sterile dressing
- Bring the patient in a position which is safe for transport from the operating theatre and secure them with a restraining belt
- Take apart and dismount instruments
- Forward instruments to the central sterilisation department to have them washed and sterilized
- Have the operating theatre cleaned and prepare/equip it for the next operation
- clean the tower and put him safe in the operating theatre
- Complete nursing OR documentation
- Bring the patient in a position which is safe for transport and secure them with a restraining belt